



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 03/14/2013**

*Approved by the Arlington School Committee April 25, 2013*

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A,  
Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:*

*Arlington School Committee  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 14, 2013  
6:30 p.m.*

*Arlington High School  
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor  
869 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476*

**Present:** Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Vice President, Mr. Lucas Munson Student Representatives, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.*

*Absent:* Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director and AAA representative.

*Ms. Foley exited the meeting at 9:20 p.m.*

### **Open Meeting**

*Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the Regular School Committee at 6:45 p.m.*

**Mr. Schlichtman moved to table all items up until Executive Session, and moved to enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m., to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted, and Update on Superintendent Contract Negotiations, Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., Superintendent, due to technical difficulties with ACMI, and return to open session seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Roll Call: unanimous**

**Ms. Starks moved to exit out of Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. and return to open session, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.**

**Roll Call: unanimous**

**Voted: 7-0**

### **Public Participation**

*Ms. Rebecca Steinitz, President of Arlington Education Foundation wanted to inform the Arlington School Committee and the community on a new grant available. The Continuing Scholars Award will be awarded to Arlington educators to support education experiences. The Award will fund seminars, courses, workshops, trips, or expeditions sponsored by universities, schools, institutes, or professional development organizations. Any full-time Arlington Public Schools educator who will be returning to the Arlington Public Schools the following year is eligible to apply before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Steinitz invited everyone to the AEF's Annual Trivia Bee, Sunday March 24, 3-5 p.m. at Town Hall.*

### Tools of the Mind

Dr. Bodie wanted the School Committee to hear about the districts successful completion of the two year pilot of Tools of the Mind for Kindergarten students. After evaluating the program from district assessment data, feedback from teachers, parents and first grade teachers, it is Dr. Bodie's recommendation to ask the School Committee to adopt the new Tools of the Mind Curriculum for Arlington Public Schools for next year. Mr. Thielman, Ms. D'Amico, Ms. Pielech, Ms. Eldredge, and Ms. Dusombre all support the Tools of the Mind curriculum too. They went on to explain the steps of the program.

Ms. Starks questioned the cost of the program, where and if this was included in the budget for next year, and Dr. Bodie said this will not come out of the operating budget but a new grant that we amended was to include the cost of this training.

**Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee adopt for all Kindergarteners in 2013-2014, the new Tools of the Mind Curriculum, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Dr. Bodie provided a memo to the School Committee on Tools of the Mind training for Kindergarten Teachers and End-of-the-Year Options for Kindergarten Students, dated March 14, 2013, for the committee to review, which had the three options she is proposing. Dr. Bodie said two of the three options would require a vote of the School Committee because of calendar changes. Dr. Bodie will be setting up a survey for parents and will come to the next meeting with survey preferences.

### Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed student representative Lucas Munson and Ms. Siobhan Foley to the meeting and provided a quote from Douglas J. Edgar.

### Common Formative Assessments Goal III-1

Dr. Chesson had the School Committee choose one of the "Do Now's" that Science Director Mr. Weathers provides his own students. Dr. Chesson also did a power point presentation on the progress of the development and implementation of Common Assessments, Informing Instruction through Assessment. Dr. Chesson provided a short video of teacher observations from one of our elementary schools. Dr. Bodie said the teachers need to look at best way to put data together, work with other teachers, and continue to plan and share data to determine best ways to address student growth. These conversations of sharing results usually happen during Professional Development days.

### Vote Approval of FY 14 Budget

Ms. Johnson had provided documents on revised FY 14 Budget Transfer Summary, dated March 7, 2013 for the School Committee to review and approve. Ms. Johnson also provided the Special Education Multiyear Cost and Population Analysis and then gave a brief update on how Special Education increases are tied into the 5 year plan.

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Proposed Budget on Elementary Total of \$12,321,631 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Proposed Budget on Secondary Total of \$12,258,923 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Proposed Budget on Special Education Total of \$16,017,799 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Proposed Budget on Curriculum & Instruction Total of \$1,362,709 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Proposed Budget on Administration Total of \$2,555,302 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 14 Other total (Facilities, IT and Transportation Total \$5,936,783 seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Ms. Starks informed the committee members that Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson will be presenting the FY 14 Budget to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:45 p.m. in the Selectmen's Room.

### Coordinated Finance Stakeholder Group (CFSG) update

Ms. Johnson provided the School Committee members with an update from the Finance Committee and an update on Warrant Article 51 from 2011, to request that the Town Manager research a consolidated Town-School Finance Department. The School Committee requested to Ms. Johnson and to Dr. Bodie that they continue to provide updated details on the consolidation to the full School Committee after each meeting.

Mr. Pierce had a question on the Monthly Financial reports, but Dr. Allison-Ampe would like all questions on the reports to happen at the last meeting of the month, since the committee just received the documents at tonight's meeting and everyone did not have time to review them.

### Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie provided the PMA Consultants report Meeting #40, March 6, 2013 report and the Thompson Elementary School Progress Schedule Review, January 28, 2013 to the committee and said the Thompson Rebuild subcommittee continues to meet monthly, and that she and others toured the new Thompson School. Dr. Bodie invited the School Committee to tour the building but it was suggested that this should be in late

April. Dr. Bodie said things are going fine, the furniture bids should be in by the April meeting and did report that they are two weeks off but Mr. Cole, Permanent Town Building Committee, Chair, is not concerned being off.

#### Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie said that last Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> was a difficult day due to the weather, but reiterated that parents make the decision to send or not send their child for their own child's safety. Dr. Allison-Ampe wanted Dr. Bodie to check with Mr. Ruggere to confirm he is clear of the district wide excused tardy procedures on stormy days. Dr. Bodie will look into statewide MCAS for next Tuesday, because another storm is imminent. Currently we have 303 Kindergarten students registered for next year, but Dr. Bodie is confident that we should have over 400 students enrolled next year. Dr. Bodie congratulated all students involved with Fiddler on the Roof, informed every one of the high school play Grease, April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and congratulated Mr. Sabato D'Agostino for the Jazz Berkee Festival, where the students won first place. Dr. Bodie wanted to thank and congratulate all of the students who participated in National History Day and their dedicated advisors, Ms. Alison Sancinito, Mr. Jason Levy, Mr. Ian MacKay and Ms. Amanda Camelio. Dr. Bodie said Dr. Chesson and others are working with the New Educator Evaluation Pilot and the School Committee will discuss the pilot Superintendent Evaluation at the next Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hayner would like the School Committee to consider updating the timeline, prior to summer break, on the Superintendent Evaluation policy.

#### Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures J. Pierce - none

Budget C. Starks, meet to discuss budget presentation to Finance Committee, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Community Relations L. Heigham - none

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability J. Thielman met to discuss Formative Assessment and Tools of the Mind and discussed the Diversity Task Force goals for FY 14, and will meet on March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss RETELL ( Rethink Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners), a 45 hour course followed by an exam.

Facilities W. Hayner, none, attended Metco Day at State House.

Legal Services Review, K. Allison-Ampe will be setting up a meeting.

Chair K. Allison-Ampe, reminded the committee on notice to chair and administrative assistant-BDAA Election of School Committee Officers.

#### Consent Agenda

**Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, \*Approval of Warrant # 13127 Dated, February 28, 2013, Total Warrant Amount \$773,956.47 and \*Minutes for Approval: February 14, 2013, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham had nothing to report.

#### Executive Session

**Ms. Heigham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to hear an update on Superintendent Contract Negotiations, Kathleen Bodie, Ed. D, Superintendent and to exit to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Roll Call: Unanimous**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Adjournment

**Mr. Schlichtman moved to exit out of Executive Session at 10:04 p.m. and to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Roll Call: Unanimous**

**Voted: 7-0**

Respectfully submitted by  
Karen M. Fitzgerald  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee